



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Third Legislature, First Regular Session*

**FINAL AMENDED**  
**FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1042**

teacher certification; reciprocity

Purpose

Issues a Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate to individuals with relevant expertise, issues standard teaching certificates for 12 years and makes various changes to teacher certification.

Background

The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to supervise and control the certification of persons engaged in instructional work in school districts. SBE adopts rules for teacher and administrator preparation programs and the issuance of a variety of teaching certificates ([A.R.S. § 15-203](#)).

SBE is charged with approving educator preparation programs after the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) reviews and recommends approval. Programs are granted approval for a maximum of six years if specified institutional information is provided and if the program meets several criteria outlined in Board rule (A.A.C. R7-2-604.01). SBE also approves alternative educator preparation programs. Alternative programs are required to meet the same requirements as traditional programs except individuals in the alternative preparation program may apply for a teaching intern certification and complete their field experience and capstone experience during the valid period of the intern certifications (A.A.C. R7-2-604.04).

In order to qualify for either a basic or standard teaching certificate an applicant must: 1) hold a bachelor's degree; 2) complete an educator preparation program or have 2 years of full-time teaching experience or complete 45 hours of education courses with 8 hours of practicum; 3) pass each component of the proficiency examination; 4) complete the required classes or pass an examination on the U.S. and State Constitutions; and 5) obtain a valid fingerprint clearance card. Standard teaching certificates are issued for six years and may be renewed for eight years. SBE may issue a basic or standard teaching certificate for at least three years to teachers who have not met the U.S. and State Constitution competency requirements, except teachers who teach predominately in social studies' related courses are granted a certificate for not more than one year ([A.R.S. §§ 15-532](#) and [15-533](#)).

Applicants for a reciprocal educator certificate are issued a comparable standard Arizona teaching certificate if the applicant: 1) holds a valid teacher certification from a state that included passing that state's subject knowledge and professional exams; 2) is in good standing with that other state; and 3) possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card from this state. An applicant that meets the above criteria is not required to meet any other requirements from SBE or ADE and is

issued a comparable standard Arizona teaching certificate valid for eight years ([A.R.S. § 15-203](#)). If an applicant has not completed the U.S. and State Constitution competency requirements the certificate is valid for three years or one year if the applicant applies for a certificate to teach in a course that focuses predominantly on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law or civics ([A.R.S. § 15-532](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

### Provisions

#### *Certification*

1. Requires SBE rule to issue standard certificates for at least 12 years.
2. Directs SBE to do the following by November 15, 2017:
  - a) revise its rules to eliminate the issuance of provisional certificates and to issue standard certificates to applicants from all available certification pathways; and
  - b) submit drafts of the proposed rules before adoption to the Governor and the chairpersons of the Senate and House Education Committees.

#### *Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate*

3. Repurposes the Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics Specialized Teaching Certificate for teachers with expertise in any content area and renames it the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate.
4. Establishes the following criteria for an individual to obtain a Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate:
  - a) has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years at an accredited postsecondary institution and exempts these individuals from professional knowledge proficiency requirements;
  - b) has either a baccalaureate degree, a master's degree or a doctoral degree in a specific academic subject that is directly relevant to a content area or subject matter; or
  - c) demonstrates expertise through relevant work experience of at least 5 years in a field relevant to a content area or subject matter taught in public schools and the applicant demonstrates compliance by providing SBE with written proof of employment.
5. Exempts individuals who obtain a Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate from the subject knowledge proficiency requirements.
6. Issues a Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate without requiring an individual to demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency and provides holders of this certificate at least two years to demonstrate professional knowledge proficiency.

7. Allows ADE or SBE to temporarily suspend the certificate if a person fails to meet the professional knowledge requirements within two years and allows the person to correct the deficiency within the remaining time of the certificate.
8. States the suspension of certificates due to the certificate holder not meeting professional knowledge requirements within two years are not considered disciplinary actions.
9. Prohibits the issuance of the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate from being conditional on the individual's employment with a local education agency.
10. Clarifies school districts are required to evaluate and provide support to teachers who hold a Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate.

### *Alternative Preparation Programs*

11. States the rules for alternative teacher and administrator preparation programs shall:
  - a) be substantially different from the rules adopted for traditional preparation programs; and
  - b) not unnecessarily restrict a variety of alternative preparation programs from operating and providing instruction in the state.
12. Requires the application procedures and certification criteria to be substantially less restrictive than those for traditional preparation programs.
13. Allows nonprofit organizations and private entities to apply for alternative preparation program approval.
14. Requires the completion of structured English immersion (SEI) training upon completion of the alternative preparation program only if applicable.
15. Directs SBE to do the following:
  - a) immediately begin the rulemaking process for alternative teacher and administrator preparation programs that are substantially different from the rules established for traditional teacher and administrator preparation programs;
  - b) submit drafts rules to the Governor and the chairpersons of the Senate Education and House of Representative Education Committees prior to adopting any rules pursuant to this act; and
  - c) adopt new rules concerning alternative teacher and administrator preparation programs pursuant to this act by November 15, 2017.
16. Directs SBE to allow, through June 30, 2022, an alternative preparation program provider to be approved for at least five years to prepare teachers in this state without any additional requirements, if the alternative preparation program provider meets the following criteria:
  - a) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit;
  - b) operates in at least five states; and
  - c) has been in operation for at least 10 years.

***Classroom-Based Preparation Program***

17. Allows a school district or charter school to apply to SBE for the authority to approve the certification of teachers as a Classroom-Based Preparation Program provider.
18. Requires SBE to adopt rules, policies and procedures to be administered by ADE.
19. Prohibits the rules from being more restrictive or require more than is prescribed below.
20. Requires the rules to only facilitate the approval and certification process and to provide for the following:
  - a) requires the superintendent of a school district or principal of a charter school to verify that the applicant for certification has made satisfactory progress and achievement with students;
  - b) prohibits a teacher who teaches courses tested by the statewide assessment from receiving a certificate until the teacher has been in the classroom for at least two years and student data has been submitted by the school district or charter school confirming that the teacher's students at the end of the school year either are performing at grade level or have achieved at least one year of academic growth at a rate equivalent to the state average for the students' associate peer groups;
  - c) allows, for informational purposes only, a school district or charter school to submit a program sequence or training schedule along with any information regarding mentoring and coaching of teacher candidates;
  - d) requires a school district or charter school to submit data supporting the efficacy of the school district's or charter school's teacher training program and allows a school district or charter school to contract with a third-party provider to provide the teacher training program and to use that program's efficacy data to meet this requirement;
  - e) allows a school district or charter school to adopt student achievement requirements that exceed the student achievement requirements prescribed above;
  - f) requires an applicant for alternative certification to hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited public or private postsecondary institution and meet background and fingerprint clearance card requirements; and
  - g) requires an applicant to demonstrate subject knowledge and professional knowledge through any means available in statute.
21. Allows school districts and charter schools to employ and enroll emergency teacher certification holders with a bachelor's degree into its Classroom-Based Preparation Program.
22. Allows, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, school districts to hire and enroll any teaching candidate that holds a bachelor's degree and obtains a valid fingerprint clearance card into its Classroom-Based Preparation Program.
23. Issues a Classroom-Based Standard Teaching Certificate on the submission of verification from a school district or charter school that the above requirements have been met.

### ***Proficiency Examination***

24. Exempts a person who is applying for a standard certification from examination requirements as follows:
  - a) the professional knowledge test, the subject knowledge test or the entire proficiency examination if the person has passed corresponding portions of an examination adopted by a state agency in another state that is substantially similar to the examination adopted by SBE; and
  - b) any portion of the proficiency examination if the person has been a full-time teacher in any state for at least three years in the same area of certification in which the person is applying.
25. Exempts a person who is applying for a standard certification from the subject knowledge test if the person meets any of the following:
  - a) has taught courses relevant to a content area or subject matter for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private postsecondary institutions;
  - b) has either a baccalaureate degree, a master's degree or a doctoral degree in a subject area that is relevant to a content area or subject matter taught in public schools; or
  - c) demonstrates expertise through relevant work experience of at least five years in a field that is relevant to a content area or subject matter taught in public schools and the person demonstrates compliance by providing SBE with written proof of employment.
26. Requires, rather than allows, SBE rule to exempt an individual applying for a secondary education certificate from the subject knowledge portion of the proficiency examination if SBE determines the individual has experience in science, technology, engineering or mathematics and demonstrates knowledge of the subject through a postsecondary degree or 24 credit hours of relevant course work.

### ***Reciprocity***

27. Eliminates a requirement for an applicant's certification from another state to include passing that state's subject knowledge and professional knowledge exams.
28. Issues a standard certificate to persons applying for reciprocity and applies existing U.S. and State Constitution competency requirements and timelines to persons applying for reciprocity.
29. Allows ADE or SBE to temporarily suspend a standard certification if a person applying for reciprocity fails to meet the U.S. and State Constitution competency requirements and timelines.
30. States the temporary suspension of a certificate due to a person's failure to meet the U.S. and State Constitution competency requirements and timelines is not considered a disciplinary action and allows a person to correct the deficiency within the remaining time of the standard certification.
31. Eliminates statutory references to *educator* and *teaching* concerning reciprocity rules.

*Miscellaneous*

32. States a charter school employee engaged in instructional work is not required to meet any additional requirements established by ADE or SBE if the employee otherwise qualifies for employment.
33. Prohibits SBE and ADE from adopting rules that exceed the requirements for persons qualified to teach in charter schools as prescribed in Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.
34. Expands the subject areas in which a person may obtain a specialized certificate in career and technical education to include science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
35. Makes technical and conforming changes.
36. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Increases the number of years a standard certificate is issued to 12 years.
2. Allows ADE or SBE to temporarily suspend, rather than revoke, certain certificates and allows these persons to correct the deficiency.
3. Requires the exam taken in another state to be substantially similar, rather than equivalent, to this state's exam in order to qualify for an exemption from the proficiency exam.
4. Specifies the proficiency examination exemptions apply to persons applying for a provisional, standard or reciprocal certificate.

Amendments adopted by the House of Representatives

1. Directs SBE to adopt rules to eliminate provisional certificates.
2. Repurposes the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Specialty Certificate for individuals with relevant expertise in any content area.
3. Requires SBE to establish alternative options for applicants to demonstrate subject matter knowledge.
4. Establishes a process that allows school districts and charter schools to apply to become classroom-based alternative preparation program providers.
5. Prohibits, retroactive to July 2016, SBE from revoking or denying renewal to certain alternative preparation providers and directs SBE to conditionally approve these alternative preparation providers for five years.

6. States charter school employees engaged in instructional work are not required to meet any additional requirements and prohibits SBE and ADE from adopting rules beyond that that is required in federal law.
7. Increases, from two years to three years, the minimum number of years of teaching experience required for a certificate applicant to be exempt from any portion of the proficiency examination.

Amendments Adopted by Conference Committee

1. Reduces the work experience requirement for the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate from 10 years to 5 years.
2. Reinserts the SEI training requirement for completion of an alternative preparation program and conditions the requirement to only if is applicable.
3. Clarifies the relevant expertise for the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate is in a content area or subject matter.
4. Specifies the academic subject a person has a postsecondary degree in that qualifies the person for the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate must be specific and directly relevant to a content area.
5. Clarifies school districts are required to provide support and evaluations to teachers holding a subject matter expert standard teaching certificate.
6. Provides holders of the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate two years to complete professional knowledge requirements and allows ADE or SBE to suspend certificates that do not meet this requirement.
7. Replaces the current exemption for subject knowledge proficiency to exempt individuals with relevant postsecondary teaching experience, a relevant higher education degree or relevant work experience.
8. Applies specific academic growth requirements, concerning the Classroom-Based Preparation Programs, for teachers who teach in courses tested by the statewide assessment, rather than English language arts, mathematics and science teachers.
9. Expands the Career and Technical Education Specialized Certificate to include science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
10. Restructures session law concerning the approval of certain alternative preparation program providers by removing the retroactivity clause and applying the session law through 2022.
11. Makes technical changes.

FACT SHEET – Final Amended

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Senate Action

ED	1/19/17	DP	5-2-0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	2/06/17		17-13-0
Final Read	4/25/17		16-12-2

House Action

ED	3/06/17	DPA	8-2-0-1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	4/17/17		36-22-1-0-1
Final Read	4/26/17		33-22-5

Signed by the Governor 5/2/2017

Chapter 245

Prepared by Senate Research

May 9, 2017

CB/jn